

Broadband Tips

What is Broadband?

Broadband is the word used to, generally speaking, describe high-speed telecommunications and, more specifically, high-speed internet.

Broadband Speeds

Broadband is measured in bits per second (abbreviated bps). The lowercase letter b here is important, because a capital B (Bps) mean “Bytes.”

What are bits vs. Bytes?

Bits are tiny pieces of binary code (0s and 1s) and are used to describe data in transmission. You might want to think of them as individual letters.

Bytes are larger pieces of binary code used to describe data in storage (such as a file size). Since there are 8 bits in a Byte, you could think of Bytes as words (if bits are letters).

We’re talking about data transfer speeds, so we’ll use bits.

1 gigabit per second (1 gbps) = 1 thousand megabits (1000 mbps) = 1 million kilobits (1,000,000 kbps)

It is all Greek to me:

Giga = billion = 1,000,000,000

Mega = million = 1,000,000

Kilo = thousand = 1,000

So... 1 gigabit per second is faster than 1 megabit per second, which is faster than 1 kilobit per second

You can use this link for calculating and comparing: <http://www.numion.com/Calculators/Units.html>

So if your Internet Service Provider (ISP) offers you 25 mbps that is 0.025 gbps = 25 mbps = 25,000 kbps

How can I check my speed?

Use one of these websites to test your upload and download speeds:

<http://www.speakeasy.net/speedtest/>

<http://www.speedtest.net/>

How can I find better Broadband speeds?

How much Broadband do I need? Try the EDGE Formula Calculator:

<http://impact.ischool.uw.edu/calc.html>

Who provides Broadband in my area? Try out the Connected Texas website:

http://www.connectedtx.org/community_profile/find_your_county/texas/colorado

And the Broadband.gov site:

<http://broadbandmap.gov>



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